

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (withdrawn) A spinneret design for producing a crimped homofilament fiber comprising:

a) an extruder for forcing a liquid polymer through a spinneret capillary;
b) the capillary having one of a substantially circular or elliptical cross sectional shape with a cut out of less than 25 percent of a surface area of the cross sectional shape; and

c) the cut out area being contiguous with an outer boundary of the cross sectional shape and forming at least one point on an outer surface of the fiber.

2. (withdrawn) The spinneret design of Claim 1 wherein the capillary has a length to width ratio of between about 6:1 to about 10:1.

3. (withdrawn) The spinneret design of Claim 1 wherein the capillary is connected to a polymer supply passage by a counterbore.

4. (withdrawn) A nonwoven web comprising:
a plurality of crimped fibers,
each fiber having one of a substantially circular or elliptical cross sectional shape with a cut out of less than 25 percent of a surface area of the cross sectional shape;
and

the cut out area being contiguous with the outer boundary of the cross sectional shape and forming at least one point on an outer surface of the fiber.

5. (withdrawn) The nonwoven web of Claim 4 wherein the fibers are polypropylene.

6. (currently amended) A process for making a crimped fibers fiber, comprising the ~~step~~ steps of:

extruding ~~each of the fibers~~ a molten polymer resin through a capillary having one of a substantially circular or elliptical cross sectional shape with a half-round area and a non-round area;

the cross sectional shape of the capillary further having a cut out area of less than 25 percent of a surface area of the cross sectional shape; and,

the cut out area being contiguous with ~~the an~~ an outer boundary of the cross sectional shape and forming one of a crenulated outer border with at least three convex points on the non-round half or a substantially tear drop shaped outer border with a single point on the non-round half; and

forming at least one point on an outer surface of the a fiber from the extruded polymer resin, the fiber having substantially the same cross-sectional shape as the capillary with a half-round area and a non-round area having a crenulated outer border with at least three convex points or a substantially tear drop shaped outer border, whereby differential shear is induced thereby producing a crimped fiber.

7. (currently amended) The process for making a crimped fibers fiber according to Claim 6, further comprising the step of: directing a quenching fluid primarily at the ~~cutout area~~ non-round area of the fiber.

8. -9. (canceled)

10. (original) The process for making crimped fibers of Claim 6 wherein the ~~fibers are~~polymer is a homopolymer of polypropylene.

11. (original) The process for making crimped fibers of Claim ~~8~~7 wherein the ~~fibers are~~polymer is a homopolymer of polypropylene.